Academy Cushion User Manual

Introduction

Thank you for choosing a Vicair® Academy cushion. We are sure you will appreciate the simplicity, reliability and fantastic effect. Your Vicair® Academy cushion is designed to be used as described in this manual. Please read the whole manual before use.

The Cushion Consists of the Following Parts:

Inner Cover
The inner cover is made up of zippered compartments. The number and shape of the compartments depends on the cushion model. Each compartment is filled with a specific number of triangular, air filled SmartCells™.

Outer Cover
Two types of outer cover are available:

- Comfair, made from a breathable fabric.
- Incontinence, made from a waterproof incontinence resistant material.

Both covers have an anti-slip bottom surface and a two-way stretchable top surface. The bottom of the cover comes with strips of Velcro tape, to help secure the cushion to the wheelchair.

Assembly

Checking the Cushion Size
Together with your therapist or dealer, make sure the cushion fits the dimensions of your body and your wheelchair.

Width: The cushion should match the width of the wheelchair seat. If your wheelchair has armrests or side guards that are capable of containing the cushion, the cushion maybe up to 2cm (0.8”) wider. Make sure the cushion cannot interfere with the wheel spokes.

Depth: The cushion should match the length of the wheelchair seat, or be up to 2.5cm (1”) longer. If the cushion is longer than that we recommend the insertion of a solid seat base underneath the inner cushion, inside the outer cover.

Fitting the Outer Cover on the Cushion

- Check the dimensions of the outer cover match the dimensions of the cushion.
- Fully open the zipper on the outer cover.
- Insert the inner cushion into the outer cover.
- Pass the loop through the eyelet in the bottom panel of the outer cover. (See picture)
- Close the zipper on the outer cover, being careful not catch and damage the inner cover.
- Always use the cushion with the outer cover in place.

Installation

Vicair recommends to install and adjust the Academy cushions under the direct supervision of your therapist or dealer.

- Make sure that the wheelchair seat is clean and degreased.
- Remove the protective backing tape from the self-adhesive Velcro strips.
- Place the cushion on the seat of your wheelchair and push it down firmly. Make sure the loop faces down and to the back of your wheelchair. (See picture)
- To remove the cushion from the chair, simply pull it off the Velcro strips.
- Sit on the cushion for a few minutes, to allow the cushion to adapt to your body shape.
- If necessary, adjust the footrests of your wheelchair. Your feet should just rest on them while your thighs are in full contact with the cushion.

If you prefer not to use the Velcro, you can simply remove the self-adhesive Velcro strips. Note that the strips connected to the bottom of the cover cannot be removed.

Adjusting the Cushion Filling
Each Vicair cushion has its own unique filling grade depending on the size and model. If necessary, the filling grade can be adjusted by removing or adding SmartCells™ from the various compartments of the cushion. You can find the default filling grade on the label that is attached to the outer cover.

Checking for "Bottoming Out"
Your tailbone and pelvic bones should not touch the bottom of the cushion. Checking for "bottoming out" should be done during first use and after adjustments to the cushion filling.

- Check the cushion for bottoming out , after sitting on the cushion for approximately 5 minutes.
- Let your therapist or dealer slide a hand between the cushion and the wheelchair while you are leaning forward.
- Make sure the buttocks are supported by at least 1.3cm (1.2") of SmartCells™.
- Do not use the cushion if bottoming out occurs. In most cases, adjusting the filling grade of the compartments, or using a different model or size of cushion will solve the problem.

Use

Checking for Redness of the Skin
Check your skin regularly for redness, especially during the first few days. If redness occurs and does not disappear after 15 minutes, do not continue to use the cushion. Consult your therapist or dealer.

Use at High Altitude
Because each of the SmartCells™ is filled with air, the cushion may behave differently when used at high altitude or in an airplane. Under such circumstances, the cushion's firmness can be adjusted by removing a few cells from each compartment. Vicair recommends not using the cushion above 2400m (8000ft) above sea level.

User weight
The maximum user weight is 250kg (551lbs).

Use in Motor Vehicles
No testing data is currently available about the safe use of Vicair® cushions in motor vehicles. Therefore we do not encourage using the cushion in motor vehicles. As an alternative, the Academy All Rounder (which can be fastened to the user's body) can be used if you require additional protection during transportation.

Transferring the Cushion to Another User
Before allowing a second person to use the cushion, clean the inner cushion and wash the outer cover. Disinfect both parts. Make sure the cushion is correctly adjusted to the second person.

Replacing the Outer Cover
Under normal use, Vicair recommends to replace the outer cover every year. Replacement covers can be purchased separately.

Flammability
Do not use or leave the cushion close to a naked flame or a high temperature heat source.

Maintenance and Cleaning

Caution: Do not steam clean or autoclave the cushion. The cushion cannot withstand excessive heat or pressure. When the given cleaning instructions are not followed, it is very likely that the cushion and/or cushion cover will age more rapidly.

Checking for Wear and Deflated Cells
Every three months, check the cushion for wear and deflated cells. In case of serious damage, or a large number of deflated cells, do not continue to use the cushion and contact Morton & Perry.

Cleaning the Inner Cushion
- Do not immerse the inner cushion in water or any other liquid.
- Do not use aggressive or abrasive cleaners, or sharp objects to clean the inner cushion.
- Treat light stains by wiping the inner cushion with a damp cloth, using a mild detergent.
- Difficult spots or stains can be cleaned by first saturating the spot and then using a soft brush to loosen the dirt, or by machine washing the emptied inner cover at 60°C.
- If it is necessary to remove the cells for cleaning, note the number of cells in each compartment.

Cleaning the Outer Cover
The outer cover can be machine-washed inside out. See the instructions on the label attached to the inside of the cover.

Disinfecting the Cushion
In case of soiling with body fluids, and when transferring the cushion to another user, the cushion must be disinfected to avoid cross contamination.
- Clean the inner cushion and the outer cover as described above. When washing the outer cover, preferably use an anti-bacterial agent.
- Spray disinfectant on the outer cover and the inner cushion. Bend the compartments outwards to make sure that the spray mist gets into the gaps.

Warranty
Vicair offers a limited warranty against defects in workmanship and materials for a period of two (2) years after the original date of purchase, provided the product has been used normally. Any damage arising from abnormal use, or caused by improper handling, cleaning, or negligence, is excluded from this warranty. Should a defect in materials or workmanship occur within two (2) years from the original date of purchase, Vicair will, at its own choice, repair or replace the product free of charge. The outer cover is excluded from this warranty. Remedies for breach of express warranties herein are limited to repair or replacement of the product. In no event shall damages for breach of any warranty include any consequential damages or exceed the cost of non-conforming goods sold.

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